

**TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK**  
**JUNETEENTH 2023 PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, also known as Freedom's Eve, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passage of the 13th Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

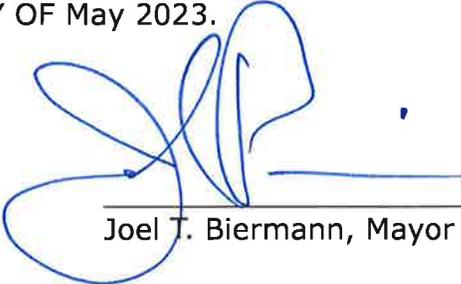
WHEREAS, the news about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed by two and a half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African American slaves in Texas, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery, with these words: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor;" and

WHEREAS, the date June 19<sup>th</sup> is called "JUNETEENTH," as it combines the words June and Nineteenth, has long been celebrated in the African American community, but is largely unknown and under-recognized by most Americans;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks this nation's second Independence Day and should be recognized with pride as a significant milestone in this country's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of University Park that the Town recognizes the importance of Juneteenth and takes this occasion to celebrate the emancipation of African Americans from slavery in the United States; and

SO PROCLAIMED THIS 31st DAY OF May 2023.

  
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Joel T. Biermann, Mayor